

I claim:

1. A method for enhancing the color of gemstone(s), the method comprising:
2. subjecting a combination of a gemstone and at least one finely divided form of a selected
treating agent to a selected temperature for a selected period of time under conditions
4. suitable to enhance the color of said gemstone; and
wherein the enhanced color lies in the color spectrum of light yellow to red.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the gemstone is sapphire or topaz.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the selected temperature is in the
2. range from about 700° C. up to about 1250° C.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the selected time period is in the range from
2. about 3 hours up to about 600 hours.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the gemstone is cleaned prior to
2. being subjected to the conditions suitable to enhance the color of said gemstone.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the treating agent is copper metal.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the treating agent is copper oxide.
8. A method according to claim 1, wherein subsequent to the treatment in the
2. presence of the treating agent, the gemstone is subjected to a temperature in the range of
about 700° C. up to about 1200° C. for a time period in the range of about one-quarter
4. hour up to about 100 hours in a reducing environment.
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein subsequent to the treatment in the

2 presence of the treating agent, the gemstone is subjected to a temperature in the range of
about 700° C. up to about 1000° C. for a time period in the range of about one-quarter
4 hour up to about 100 hours in an oxidizing environment.

10. A method for enhancing the color of gemstone(s), the method comprising:
2 subjecting a combination of a gemstone and at least one finely divided form of a selected
treating agent to a temp in the range of about 700° C. up to about 1000° C., for a time
4 period in the range of about 3 hours up to about 600 hours, under conditions suitable to
enhance the color of said gemstone, wherein said treating agent consists of a finely
6 divided form of copper metal or copper oxide; and

wherein said gemstone is topaz or sapphire and the enhanced color lies in the color
8 spectrum of light yellow to red.

11. A method according to claim 8, wherein the gemstone is cleaned prior to
2 being subjected to the conditions suitable to enhance the color of said gemstone.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein subsequent to the treatment in the
2 presence of the selected treating agent, said gemstone is subjected to a temperature in the
range of about 700° C. up to about 1200° C. in a reducing environment for a time period
4 in the range of about one-quarter hour up to about 100 hours.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein subsequent to said treatment in the
2 presence of the treating agent, the gemstone is subjected to a temperature in the range of
about 700° C. up to about 1000° C. in an oxidizing environment for a time period in the
4 range of about one-quarter hour up to about 100 hours.

14. A method according to claim 8, wherein the selected treating agent is
2 copper metal.

15. A method according to claim 8, wherein the selected treating agent is
2 copper oxide.

16. A color enhanced gemstone comprising a gemstone having a color
2 enhancing agent diffused into the outer surface thereof, wherein the gemstone is sapphire
or topaz and the enhancing agent is copper metal or copper oxide.

17. A color enhanced gemstone according to claim 16, wherein said enhanced
2 color lies in the color spectrum of light yellow to red.

18. A color enhanced gemstone comprising a gemstone wherein at least the
2 surface has chemically bonded thereto a color enhancing agent, wherein the gemstone is
sapphire or topaz and the enhancing agent is copper metal or copper oxide.

19. A color enhanced gemstone according to claim 18, wherein the enhanced
2 color lies in the color spectrum of light yellow to red.